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LETTER DATED 16 MAY 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to submit herewith the statement adopted on 15 May 1995 by the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the destruction of the holy places and mosque at Charar-i-Sharif.

I should be grateful if you would have the statement circulated to the members of the Security Council and issued as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI
Ambassador
Chairman of the Group of States
members of OIC

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ANNEX

STATEMENT OF OIC CONTACT GROUP ON JAMMU AND KASHMIR ON THE DESECRATION AND DESTRUCTION OF THE CHARAR-I-SHARIF SHRINE AND MOSQUE COMPLEX

1. In a meeting held at the United Nations, in New York on 15 May 1995, the Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, considered the serious situation that has arisen because of the desecration and destruction of the Shrine of Sheikh Nooruddin Noorani, the large mosque adjacent to it and a Madrassah (institution of learning) by a large number of armed Indian military personnel. The Contact Group stated that the wanton act of sacrilege of the 535-year-old holy shrine, built in 1460, and a mosque adjacent to it, on the auspicious occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, has profoundly shocked the Muslims all over the world.

2. The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir strongly condemned the brutal Indian military operation against the peaceful residents of Charar-i-Sharif which had resulted in killing of scores of innocent civilians, the burning down of some 1,000 houses, and attacks against their religious and cultural heritage.

3. The OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir regretted that the concern and alarm at the siege of the Shrine expressed earlier and the OIC Secretary General's appeals to lift the siege were not heeded by the Indian Government. It expressed its deep anxiety that some Indian leaders, after the desecration of the mosque and shrine by the Indian armed personnel, had threatened use of force against Azad Kashmir. The Contact Group deplored that the desecration of the holy places of Muslims in India had become a patter over the years. It recalled that earlier in 1992, the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya was demolished and destroyed by the Hindu fanatics.

4. The Contact Group noted that the desecration of the Charar-i-Sharif Mosque and the Shrine had led to massive peaceful demonstrations throughout Jammu and Kashmir and that the Indian authorities had imposed curfew in Srinagar and several other towns in an effort to prevent the expression of protest against this latest assault on the religious sentiments of the Kashmiri people.

5. The Members of the Contact Group urged the Indian Government to withdraw their forces from Charar-i-Sharif and take other immediate steps to mitigate the effects of the desecration of the Mosque and the Shrine. They called on the Indian Government to desist from repeating such actions and to respond to the aspirations of the people of Kashmir in the interest of peace and security in the region.

6. The Contact Group, reaffirming the OIC resolution on Jammu and Kashmir adopted at the Seventh Islamic Summit held in Casablanca, expressed total solidarity with the Kashmiri people. It urged the United Nations Secretary-General to take due cognizance of the threat to the regional peace and security posed by the deteriorating situation in Kashmir, particularly by the desecration and destruction of the Charar-i-Sharif Mosque and Shrine. It also appealed to the President of the Security Council to take note of the situation and to bring

the matter to the attention of members of the Security Council for appropriate action.

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